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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Housing Conditions

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE (OF INFO. [REDACTED])

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1. Housing conditions in Poland are extremely poor. In Warsaw [REDACTED] there were practically no private houses. This did not seem to disturb the people because the people themselves did not have the means to maintain the houses in proper repair nor were they able to pay the outrageous taxes which the state imposed. The disturbing factor in housing stemmed from the overcrowded conditions. The amount of space allotted to individuals and families was totally inadequate to dispel the feeling of claustrophobia. [REDACTED] this condition prevails throughout Poland.
 2. Public housing in Warsaw is closely supervised by the government. Each house or apartment has an overseer (a sort of resident manager), who is responsible for maintaining order, collecting rental, etc. The overseer reports all happenings within his building to the "blokowy", block supervisor. The blokowy maintains a roster of all the inhabitants in his block, and reports any change of tenants to the local police. Whenever a new tenant moves in he must report his address to the local police as must the tenant who is vacating. The vacating tenant must present his Dowod Osobisty (personal identity book) wherein there is a place provided for registering and deregistering for permanent housing. The vacating tenant, of course, would be deregistered and given three days to register at the new address. A new tenant who is registering must also present his identity book to the local police. The registering and deregistering consists of a stamp in the proper column indicating the city or town, the fact that the person is reporting for housing or reporting the fact that he is leaving, the address, date, the person who is registering or deregistering, and the signature or initials of the authorized police officer.
 3. In view of the shortage of housing, a new arrival in a city usually turns to the Urząd Kwaterunkowy (Quartering Office). This office carries a [REDACTED]

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listing of available housing. The personal identity book is checked for stamp indicating the individual's employer and the person is then referred to a particular block overseer who assigns accommodations in accordance with the person's needs. After being assigned housing the individual registers with the local police. Usually no special reason has to be given for obtaining new housing, one merely indicates that new housing is being requested due to the fact that present housing is inadequate.

4. The following hotels are among the larger and better known in Poland:

- A) Polonia
- B) "Wentral" (Jerozolimskie Aleje)
- C) "Bristol" - Krakowski Przedmiescie
- D) Warszawski - Plac Napoleona
- E) Terminus - Chmielna
- F) Sejnowy (for government officials and high party members)

[redacted] the Polonia charges 90 zlotys per day. Priority is always given to persons who are members of a "Delegacja Sluzbowa" (Official Delegation). If a transient occupies a hotel room he can be evicted at a moment's notice in order to make room for one who has a certificate indicating he is a member of an official delegation. Whenever a member of a delegation arrives in a city he usually turns to the Biuro Obslugi Podroznej (Travellers' Aid Office) which is usually located in the larger terminals, presents his certificate of travel and is directed to a hotel. Members of such delegations can make reservations well in advance and are always assured accommodations.

5. Soldiers do not use public hotels. In some cases high ranking officers may occupy or stay in a hotel. As a rule, hotels rent rooms only temporarily, however, press representatives and high ranking officials do maintain efficiency apartments in hotels.
6. To register at a hotel a person must present his personal identity book to the Hotel Clerk. The guest is then given a registration form to fill out at one of the desks provided for this purpose. The registration form requires the following data:

- A) Name - date of birth
- B) Address
- C) Occupation
- D) Employer - address
- E) Place of Permanent residence
- F) Parents' names
- G) Mother's maiden name
- H) Personal identity registration number
- I) Length of intended stay
- J) Whether a member of an Official Delegation

When the above information is filled out the hotel clerk checks it against the data provided in the personal identity book, which also contains the photograph of the individual. I have heard it rumored that all of the hotel telephones are tapped.

7. In obtaining hotel accommodations a person does not have to present any document of travel, however, [redacted] any guest who would stay [redacted] local police with the police [redacted] ty. When a [redacted] a certificate [redacted] . Where a [redacted] should obtain a certificate of travel from the local police. Although this practice is not

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3

strictly adhered to, nevertheless, should a person get into even minor trouble this certificate would be demanded.

8. It must be noted that since temporary public housing and permanent housing is extremely hard to find, travel or visiting is discouraged. The amount of space allotted to a family is so limited that visits to the homes of relatives even for short periods cause a great deal of inconvenience. It follows that should a person have money to spend on hotel accommodations, he would be under suspicion.

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